NUMB. XLIII.

The GUARDIAN.

Effutire leves indigna tragœdia verſus
Ut feſtis matrona moveri juſſa diebus. Hor.

Thurſday, April 30. 1713.

I Had for ſome Days obſerved ſomething in Agitation, which was carried by Smiles and Whiſpers, between my Lady *Lizard* and her Daughters, with a profeſſed Declaration that Mr. *Ironſide* ſhould not be in the Secret. I would not treſpaſs upon the Integrity of the *Sparkler* ſo much as to ſollicit her to break her Word even in a Trifle; but I take it for an Inſtance of her Kindneſs to me, that as ſoon as ſhe was at Liberty ſhe was impatient to let me know it, and this Morning ſent me the following Billet.

SIR,

'MY Brother *Tom.* waited upon us all laſt Night 'to *Cato*; we ſat in the firſt Seats in the 'Box of the Eighteen-Penny Gallery; you muſt 'come hither this Morning, for we ſhall be full of 'Debates about the Characters. I was for *Marcia* 'laſt Night, but find that Partiality was owing to 'the Awe I was under in her Father's Preſence; 'but this Morning *Lucia* is my Woman. You will 'tell me whether I am right or no when I ſee you, 'but I think it is a more difficult Virtue to forbear 'going into a Family, tho' ſhe was in Love with 'the Heir of it, for no other Reaſon but becauſe 'her Happineſs was inconſiſtent with the Tranquility of the whole Houſe to which ſhe ſhould be 'ally'd, I ſay I think it a more generous Virtue in '*Lucia* to conquer her Love from this Motive, 'than in *Marcia* to ſuſpend hers in the preſent Cir-'cumſtances of her Father and her Country; but 'pray be here to ſettle theſe Matters.

I am,

Your moſt Obliged
and Obedient
Humble Servant,

Mary Lizard.

I made all the haſte imaginable to the Family, where I found *Tom.* with the Play in his Hand, and the whole Company with a ſublime Chearfulneſs in their Countenance, all ready to ſpeak to me at once; and before I could draw my Chair, my Lady her ſelf repeated,

'Tis not a Set of Features or Complexion,
The Tincture of a Skin, that I admire;
Beauty ſoon grows familiar to the Lover,
Fades in his Eye, and palls upon the Senſe.
The Virtuous Marcia *tow'rs above her Sex;*
True, ſhe is fair, (Oh, how divinely Fair!)
But ſtill the lovely Maid improves her Charms
With inward Greatneſs, unaffected Wiſdom,
And Sanctity of Manners.

I was going to ſpeak when Mrs. *Cornelia* ſtood up, and with the moſt gentle Accent and ſweeteſt Tone of Voice, ſucceeded her Mother.

So

(Price Two Pence.)

So the pure limpid Stream, when foul with Stains
Of ruſhing Torrents and deſcending Rains,
Works it ſelf clear, and as it runs refines,
Till by Degrees the floating Mirrour ſhines,
Reflects each Flow'r that on the Border grows,
And a new Heav'n in its fair Boſom ſhows.

I thought they would now have given me time to draw a Chair, but the *Sparkler* took hold of me, and I heard her with the utmoſt Delight purſue her Admiration of *Lucia*, in the Words of *Portius*.

——— Athwart the Terrors that thy Vow
Has planted round thee, thou appear'ſt more fair,
More amiable, and riſeſt in thy Charms.
Lovely'ſt of Women! Heav'n is in thy Soul,
Beauty and Virtue ſhine for ever round thee,
Bright'ning each other; thou art all Divine!

When the Ladies had done ſpeaking, I took the Liberty to take my Place; while *Tom*, who, like a juſt Courtier, thinks the Intereſt of his Prince and Country the ſame, dwelt upon theſe Lines.

Remember, O my Friends, the Laws, the Rights,
The gen'rous Plan of Power deliver'd down
From Age to Age, by your renown'd Fore-fathers,
(So deadly bought, the Price of ſo much Blood)
O let it never periſh in your Hands!
But pious'ly tranſmit it to your Children.

Though I would not take Notice of it at that time, it went to my Heart that *Annabella*, for whom I have long had ſome Apprehenſions, ſaid nothing on this Occaſion, but indulged her ſelf in the Sneer of a little Mind, to ſee the reſt ſo much affected. Mrs. *Betty* alſo, who knows forſooth more than us all, overlooked the whole Drama, but acknowledged the Dreſſes of *Syphax* and *Juba* were very prettily imagined. The Love of Virtue, which has been ſo warmly rouzed by this admirable Piece in all Parts of the Theatre, is an unanſwerable Inſtance of how great Force the Stage might be towards the Improvement of the World, were it regarded and encouraged as much as it ought: There is no Medium in this Caſe, for the Advantages of Action, and the Repreſentation of Vice and Virtue in an agreeable or odious manner before our Eyes, are ſo irreſiſtably prevalent, that the Theatre ought to be ſhut up, or carefully govern'd, in any Nation that values the Promotion of Virtue or Guard of Innocence among its People. Speeches or Sermons will ever ſuffer, in ſome Degree, from the Characters of thoſe that make them; and Mankind are ſo unwilling to reflect on what makes for their own Mortification, that they are ever caviling againſt the Lives of thoſe who ſpeak in the Cauſe of Goodneſs, to keep themſelves in Countenance, and continue in belov'd Infirmities. But in the caſe of the Stage, Envy and Detraction are baffled, and none are offended, but all inſenſibly won by perſonated Characters, which they neither look upon as their Rivals or Superiors; every Man that has any Degree of what is laudable in a Theatrical Character, is ſecretly pleaſed, and encouraged in the Proſecution of that Virtue, without fancying any Man about him has more of it. To this purpoſe I fell a Talking at the Tea Table, when my Lady *Lizard*, with a Look of ſome Severity towards *Annabella* and Mrs. *Betty*, was pleaſed to ſay, that it muſt be from ſome trifling Prepoſſeſſion of Mind that any one could be unmoved with the Characters of this Tragedy; nor do I yet underſtand to what Circumſtance in the Family her Ladyſhip alluded, when ſhe made all the Company look ſerious, and rehearſed, with a Tone more exalted, thoſe Words of the Heroine,

In ſpight of all the Virtue we can boaſt,
The Woman that Deliberates is loſt.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas Bat. Pidgeon *in the* Strand, *Hair-Cutter to the Family of the* Lizards, *has attained to great Proficience in his Art, Mr.* Ironſide *adviſes all Perſons of fine Heads, in order to have Juſtice done them, to repair to that induſtrious Mechanick.*

N. B. *Mr.* Pidgeon *has Orders to talk with, and examine into the Parts and Character of young Perſons, before he thins the Covering near the Seat of the Brain.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

For the Benefit of Mr. Geree,

At Girdler's-Hall in Baſinghall-ſtreet near Guild-hall, this Day the 30th Inſtant, will be performed a Conſort of Vocal and Inſtrumental Muſick. By ſeveral eminent Maſters. To begin at Six a Clock. Note, There will be Country Dancing after the Conſort is ended. Tickets, at 2 s. 6 d. each, may be had at the Black Swan Tavern in Bartholomew-lane behind the Royal Exchange; Jacobs Coffee-houſe in Bread-ſtreet; Robins Coffee-houſe in Exchange-Ally; Grigsby's Coffee-houſe in Threadneedle-ſtreet; John's Coffee-houſe in Sweething's-Ally; Mr. King's, at the Punch bowl in Drury-lane, Box keeper to the Play-houſe; and at the Hall.

A good Houſe of two Rooms on a Floor, and large Cloſets with Chimneys, to be Let in Panton Square, at the upper end of the Hay market. Enquire at the Harrow the corner of the Square.

A young ſeaſoned black ſtoned Coach Horſe, well marked, 15 Hands and an Inch high, to be diſpoſed of a Penny-worth, his Fellow being dead. Enquire at the Black Horſe in Windmill ſtreet near the Hay-market.

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